

**Comment Response Document
Regarding the Low pH Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Youghiogheny River
Watershed, Garrett County, Maryland**

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has conducted a public review of the proposed low pH Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Youghiogheny River Watershed, Garrett County, Maryland. The public comment period was open from May 24, 2007 through June 22, 2007. MDE received one set of written comments.

Below is a list of commentors, their affiliation, the date comments were submitted, and the numbered references to the comments submitted. In the pages that follow, comments are summarized and listed with MDE's response.

Author	Affiliation	Date	Comment Number
Jennifer Sincock	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3	June 11, 2007	1 through 8

Comments and Responses:

1. The commentor states that in the Executive Summary, page viii, third paragraph and Section 1, page 1, second paragraph state the Youghiogheny River was identified on Maryland's Section 303(d) lists for low pH, sediments, and impacts to biological communities. However, the Youghiogheny River sediment TMDL report stated that nutrients were also listed on Maryland's Section 303(d) list for the Youghiogheny River. A Water Quality Analysis (WQA) for eutrophication to address the nutrient listing was approved by EPA.

Response: The following text has been added to the Executive Summary, page viii, third paragraph and Section 1, page 1, second paragraph: Previously, the Youghiogheny River was listed for nutrients on the 1996 303(d) list. Nutrients were de-listed on the 2002 303(d) list after an intensive survey by MDE showed that showed no nutrient impairment.

2. The commentor states that in the Executive Summary, page x, last paragraph states that Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) were assigned to six permitted facilities. However, Tables 2-9 and 5-9 both show seven permitted facilities. From Section 5.3.1 and Table 5-9, it appears that Alpine Lake Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) (WV0086665) was not given a WLA for any of the parameters since the permit did not have a limit for any of these parameters. The commentor asks if the discharge from Alpine Lake STP considered *de minimis*?

Response: Text has been added to the Executive Summary and Section 5.3.1 to further iterate only parameters/permits with limits had WLAs assigned.

3. The commentor states that in Section 1.1., first paragraph, last sentence, the watershed's U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) is listed as 05020006 instead of 05020201.

Response: At this point in the paragraph, the referenced HUC is correct. However, a sentence has been added to the paragraph identifying the MD 8-digit basin code (05020201).

4. The commentor states that Table 2-9 should indicate the permit facility type for all permittees. There appears to be one wastewater treatment plant, two sewage treatment plants, and one water treatment plant. The facility type is uncertain for the remaining three: Cranesville Stone (WV0119113), Alyeska Inc. (WVG551149), and Grimm Lumber, Inc. (WVG610139).

Response: Facility type information has been added to the table. Cranesville Stone is a quarry; Alyeska, Inc. operates the Big Bear Campground WWTP; and Grimm Lumber, Inc. is a sawmill.

5. The commentor asks if there is any municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits in the Youghiogheny River watershed.

Response: There are no MS4 permits in the Youghiogheny River watershed.

6. The commentor states that in Section 5.3, page 48, second full paragraph, second sentence states "Figure 5-1 is an example of a curve for sulfate for Herrington Creek (HER0014/WM-8)." However, Figure 5-1's caption states "Example of load duration curve for iron for Laurel Run (LRL0034/BM929)".

Response: The sentence has been corrected to reference iron for Laurel Run.

7. The commentor states that in Section 5.3.1., page 60, first paragraph, last sentence states "It was assumed that if a parameter limit was not in the permit, that the present discharge levels were not adversely affecting the stream." The commentor requests the following be added to the end of the sentence "and a WLA was not given."

Response: The text has been edited to include the phrase "and a WLA was not given."

8. The commentor states that Table 5-9 should include stream names and stream codes to indicate where permit outlets discharge.

Response: The requested information has been added to the table.